REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed December 17, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 2, 4 – 13, and 15 - 19 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 11 and 18. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Response to Argument

The Office Action makes what appears to be general comments pertaining to Applicant's disclosure and then seems to use these general comments as the basis for the pending rejections. Applicant respectfully asserts that even if portions of Applicant's disclosure were proven to be known and, therefore, unpatentable (unless in patentable combination with other features), it is the features recited in the pending claims that are to be compared to the prior art. That is, it is improper to compare Applicant's disclosure to the prior art without regard to the claimed invention. Thus, since there is adequate support for the features recited in the pending claims, the specific features of the claims must be show unpatentable irrespective of what other material may be present in Applicant's disclosure.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 3, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Zingher* in view of *Maldy*. The Office Action also indicates that claims 4, 5, 13, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Zingher* and *Maldy* in view of *Chomet*. The Office Action further indicates that claims 8 - 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Zingher* in view of *Maldy* and *Barkan*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Turning first to *Zingher*, that reference generally involves a print job allocation system. As disclosed in *Zingher*, that reference teaches:

> Using a printing plants profile generated from the data received from the printing machines 22 via the printing machine control devices 24 and the print job requirements profile generated from the data received from the data input devices 32, the print job processor 14 determines which printing machine(s) 22 in which printing plant(s) 20 are capable and available for processing a print job of the type input by the printing plant customer 30. Here, it is particularly important that the distribution requirements of the printed product, included in the requirements profile, are simultaneously taken into account when determining the optimum use of the printing machines 22 located throughout the world. Thus, as early as during the allocation of the print job for later dispatching of the print job, the distribution requirements of a print job are considered.
>
> In the print job processor 14, the job requests entered by the customers 30 via the network 12 are compared against the free or available capacity input to the print job processor 14 via the printing machine control devices 24 of each of the printing plants 20. A particular print job is allocated and distributed to one or more printing plants 20 in accordance with the requirements profile generated from the data input by the customers 30 via the data input devices 32. As a result, each print job can be carried out in the best possible manner with regard to the optimization of time, material costs, desired quality and any other suitable criteria. (*Zingher*, col. 5, line 60 to col. 6, line 18).

Applicant respectfully asserts that, as shown in the exemplary teaching of *Zingher* above, *Zingher's* printing device is not involved with decryption of information that is to be printed. Additionally, *Zingher* discloses:

> The data transmitted over the network 12 can be encrypted using known encryption devices and authentication codes, as desired, for security of data and to prevent tampering with print job requests or printing plant data. All of the data transmitted in the print job allocation system 10 may be encrypted for maximum security. Alternatively, various selected data transmissions in the print job allocation system 10 may be encrypted as desired. For example, it may be desirable to encrypt only data relating to print job requests and transmit the printing plant data in an unencrypted format.
> (*Zingher*, col. 3, lines 41 – 51).

Applicant also respectfully notes that *Zingher* has only disclosed using "known encryption devices and authentication codes," for performing encryption. Thus, *Zingher* only teaches the use of a system other than a printing device for decrypting encrypted information

and only uses known encryption devices and authentication codes. This is in direct contrast to Applicant's claimed systems and methods as will be described in detail.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the other cited references teaches or reasonably suggests the features/limitations described below as lacking in the combination of *Zingher* and *Maldy*. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the pending rejections are legally deficient for rendering the claims obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Turning to the claims, Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

> 1. A secure printing system comprising:
> ***a printing device configured to print information as hard copy, the printer having <u>located therein</u> a remote print system*** configured to:
> provide a user with an encryption key,
> receive information encrypted using the encryption key,
> decrypt the information with a corresponding decryption key, and
> enable the information, once decrypted, to be printed.
> (Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 1 unpatentable. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 2 and 4 - 10 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to Claim 11, that claim has been amended to recite:

> 11. A secure printing system for printing information, the information being stored in memory at a location remote from a user, the information being accessible to the user via a communication network, said secure printing system comprising:
> ***a printing device operative to print information as hard copy, the printing device having <u>contained therein</u> a remote print system***, the remote

print system being arranged at a location remote from the information and configured to provide a user with an encryption key,

said remote print system being configured to communicate with the communication network such that said remote print system receives information encrypted using said encryption key,

said remote print system being further configured to decrypt said information with a corresponding decryption key, and enable said information, once decrypted, to be printed;

wherein once said information is decrypted using said decryption key, said printing device is enabled to print said information as hard copy. (Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 11 unpatentable. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 11. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 12 and 13 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 11, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to Claim 15, that claim has been amended to recite:

15. A method for secure printing of information transmitted via a communication network, the information being stored in memory at a first location remote from a user, the information being accessible to the user via the communication network, said method comprising:

providing the user with an encryption key from a printing device;

receiving, at the printing device located at a second location remote from the first location, information encrypted using the encryption key via the communication network;

decrypting the information with a corresponding decryption key using the printing device; and

enabling the information, once decrypted, to be printed by the printing device.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 15 unpatentable. In particular,

Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 15. (Applicant also respectfully notes that these particular features were not specifically addressed in the final Action.) Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 15 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 16 and 17 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 15, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to Claim 18, that claim has been amended to recite:

> 18. A method for secure printing of information transmitted via a communication network, the information being stored in memory at a first location remote from a user, the information being accessible to the user via the communication network, said method comprising:
>
> ***enabling an encryption key to be received from a printing device*** located at a second location remote from the first location;
>
> enabling information that is to be printed to be identified; and
>
> enabling the encryption key and information corresponding to the information that is to be printed to be transmitted to the first location via the communication network ***such that the information that is to be printed is encrypted using the encryption key, transmitted to the printing device located at the second location via the communication network, decrypted by the printing device using a corresponding decryption key, and printed by the printing device.***
>
> (Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 18 unpatentable. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 18. (Applicant also respectfully notes that these particular features were not specifically addressed in the final Action.) Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 18 is in condition for allowance. Since claim 19 is a dependent claim that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 18, Applicant respectfully asserts that this claim also is in condition for allowance.

Additionally, this claim recites other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

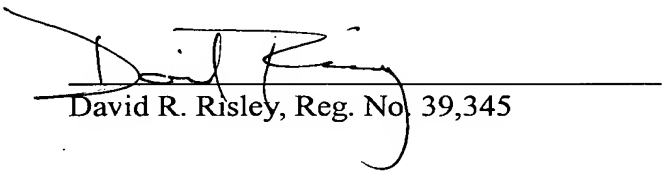
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Risley, Reg. No. 39,345

THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 3/15/05.

Stephanie Riley
Signature